

Opinion 2381 (Case 3629) – *Vipera latastei* Boscá, 1878 (Reptilia, Serpentes, VIPERIDAE): conservation of the original spelling

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

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Abstract. Under the specific powers the Commission has confirmed that *Vipera latastei* Boscá, 1878 is the correct original spelling of the specific name for the viper named for Fernand Lataste.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Serpentes; VIPERIDAE; *Vipera*; *Vipera latasti*; *Vipera latastei*; Iberian Peninsula; North Africa; Lataste's Viper.

Ruling

- (1) Under the specific powers the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has confirmed that:
 - (a) *latastei* Boscá, 1878, as published in the binomen *Vipera latastei*, is the correct original spelling of the specific name for the viper named for Fernand Lataste, as selected by Boscá (1879), deemed to be the First Reviser (under Article 24.2.4);
 - (b) *latasti* Boscá, 1878, as published in the binomen *Vipera latasti*, is an incorrect original spelling of *latastei* Boscá, 1878;
- (2) the name *latastei* Boscá, 1878, as published in the binomen *Vipera latastei*, and the correct original spelling as confirmed in (1)(a) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) the name *latasti* Boscá, 1878, as published in the binomen *Vipera latasti*, and the incorrect original spelling of *latastei* Boscá, 1878, as confirmed in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3629

An application to conserve the specific name of the snake *Vipera latastei* Boscá, 1878 was received from Alfredo Salvador (*Departamento de Ecología Evolutiva, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, MNCN-CSIC, Madrid, Spain*), Stephen D. Busack (*North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.*), Roy McDiarmid (*USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Biological Survey Unit, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, U.S.A.*), Ivan Ineich (*Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Reptiles, Dép. Syst & Evol., Paris, France*) and José Carlos Brito (*Universidade do Porto, Inst. Ciências Agr. Vairão, CIBIO Inbio, Ctr. Invest. Biodiversidade & Recursos Genet., Vairão, Portugal*) on 31 May 2013. After correspondence the Case was published in BZN

71(1): 22–25 on 31 Mar 2014 (Salvador et al., 2014). The title, abstract and keywords of the Case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on the Case were received.

The Case was sent for vote on 1 December 2015 (VP 22). A greater than two-thirds majority of Commissioners voted FOR the Case (23 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstain).

Decision of the Commission

At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2016 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 23: Aescht, Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchard, Bourgoïn, Dmitriev, Evenhuis, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Pape, Rheindt, Rosenberg, Welter-Schultes, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – none.

Abstain – 1: Alonso-Zarazaga.

Ng, Pyle and van Tol were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Aescht noted that she did not agree with all the points presented by the authors (Salvador et al., 2014) in the original application. Boscá (1878) introduced “multiple original spellings” (viz., “two or more different original spellings for the same name” [Article 32.2.1]), in his first publication on the new species. This is not mentioned in the text and the title, which requests for “conservation of the original spelling” (singular) (Salvador et al., 2014). Likewise, no reference is given to Article 31.1 that governs “[s]pecies-group names formed from personal names”. The species-group names *latastei* and *latasti* are both admissible under Article 31.1.1 (originating from the modern personal name “Lataste”), with the latter also available under Article 31.1.2 (starting from the stem “Latast-”). Both names thus are independently available. No evidence was given that *latasti* was an incorrect original spelling, and Article 32.4 does not apply and should have been removed from paragraph 9(1)(b) and paragraph 3, and the ruling in the Opinion modified. Finally, concerning the alternative spelling *latastii*, it should not just have been “considered a subsequent misspelling” in paragraph 4 of Salvador et al. (2014), but Articles 33.4 and 33.5 should have been applied to treat this as an incorrect subsequent spelling. Also voting FOR, Rosenberg stated that the authors of the case show that the information presented by Ineich & D’Hondt (in Alonso-Zarazaga, 2013) about dates of publication was incorrect because the stated pagination of part 2 did not match the signatures of the work. However, given that Salvador et al. (2014) restated where part 2 ends, they should have demonstrated anew the pagination of part 1. Merely stating that page 108 is blank was in itself not sufficient. Page 107 ends with the centred line “Paris. —Imp. LUCAN, r. Saint-Jacques, 221”. This publisher’s imprint, which does not appear on any previous page, is stronger evidence that part 1 had ended. This last piece of evidence led Rosenberg to accept that both spellings were published simultaneously in part 2.

Original descriptions

The following are the original descriptions to the entries on either an Official List or an Index in the ruling given in the present Opinion:

latastei, *Vipera*, Boscá, 1878: 201.

latasti, *Vipera*, Boscá, 1878: 353, 355.

References

- Alonso-Zarazaga, M.A.** 2013. *Vipera latasti* vs. *V. latastei*: a poisoned affair. *Graellsia*, **69**: 129–131.
- Boscá, E.** 1878. Note sur une forme nouvelle ou peu connue de vipère. *Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France*, **3**(2): 116–121, 201 (Explication des planches, 4, fig 1 et 1a. *Vipera Latastei* Bosca. Fig. 4. *Vipera Latastei* Bosca, grandeur naturelle).
- Salvador, A., Busack, S.D., McDiarmid, R., Ineich, I. & Brito, J.C.** 2014. *Vipera latastei* Boscá, 1878 (Reptilia, Serpentes, VIPERIDAE): request for conservation of the original spelling. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **71**(1): 22–25.